

Here is to another prosperous 100 years of service.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN RICE IRWIN

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of John Rice Irwin, a renowned historian and the founder of east Tennessee's Museum of Appalachia. He recently passed away at 91 years of age.

John joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany during the Korean war. When he returned to east Tennessee, he began a career in education and became Anderson County Schools' youngest superintendent at the age of 31.

It was around this time John started collecting old-timey Appalachian items. John was fascinated by east Tennessee's rich cultural history, and he traveled around the region to collect artifacts and document stories of how the people lived long ago. He even bought a historic cabin and restored it to what it would have looked like when it was first built.

Madam Speaker, that little cabin became the Museum of Appalachia, which opened in 1969 and received around 600 visitors during its first year. John kept expanding the museum, and now it covers 65 acres, contains over 250,000 historical artifacts, and welcomes tens of thousands of guests each year. Anyone who visits the museum will recognize John's passion for the Appalachian heritage.

Former Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander displayed loaned artifacts from John's museum in his Washington office until his retirement in 2020. These same artifacts are now on display in my Washington office, and I am reminded of John's incredible work each time I walk through the front door.

Rest in peace, brother. Thank you for telling the stories of our historic Appalachian community.

MILWAUKEE'S MURDER RATE

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As a child, I was always so proud of Milwaukee. You would look at the crime records or the crime numbers in the biggest cities around the country, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, along with San Diego, year after year had the lowest murder rate in the country.

It is, therefore, very disappointing to find out that at the end of last year Milwaukee, one more time, set their all-time record for murders, at 197. This is caused, I think, in no small part by politicians who scream racism and cause disrespect for the Milwaukee Po-

lice Department, and, therefore, the Milwaukee Police Department has to back off and not be aggressive, as Milwaukee continues to become more and more dangerous.

I can only hope in the future that politicians looking to make cheap points do not further denigrate the Milwaukee police and do not further cause Milwaukee to hit another record this year in total murders.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. NEWMAN). The Chair would clarify the earlier announcement. Pursuant to clause 5(d) of rule XX, the whole number of the House is 434.

52 WEEKS OF BROKEN PROMISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, today, at least on one question, Americans are more united than ever before. This week, as we mark the 1-year mark of the Biden Presidency, the vast majority of the American people agree that the Biden Presidency has been a failure.

After 1 year in office, President Biden's approval rating is the lowest ever recorded after the first year in office of any President in American history.

Why is no mystery. By every measure, Americans are worse off today than when Biden took office. Inflation, crime, the debt, the border, Afghanistan, a never-ending pandemic, Americans have endured humiliation abroad and division at home, and all of these disasters are man-made.

Everyone knows why inflation is at a 40-year high. Everyone knows why Americans' wages have been cut by 3 percent or more. Democrats spent trillions and then passed the largest Federal budget in history.

How, in less than a year, did we go from energy independence to begging Saudi Arabia for oil? Well, maybe it has something to do with the President banning new natural gas production in the United States.

You see, the media wants to make things complicated. They want you to believe that no one really knows why you are paying close to \$4 per gallon at the pump. They want to separate the consequences of the last year from its cause. But don't be fooled, Madam Speaker.

There is a border crisis because the Biden administration stopped building the wall, cut deportations by 90 percent, and reversed every single one of President Trump's successful border enforcement measures.

Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45 be-

cause it, too, is pouring across a wide-open southern border. It is that simple.

Crime immediately shot up after Democrats' antipolice riots, because of Democrats' antipolice riots.

There are still hundreds of Americans stranded in Afghanistan because the Biden administration didn't prioritize its own citizens for evacuation.

President Biden's COVID policies do not work. That is why COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths all rose during the Biden Presidency. Americans endured mandatory vaccinations, pointless mask mandates, endless school closures, and never-ending Dr. Fauci interviews. And it was all for nothing.

Americans can see what is in front of them. That is why they have rejected this administration. The proof is in the pudding, and the pudding is stale.

The question is, can Americans endure 3 more years just like the last one? I believe that they can, but they shouldn't have to. That is why the Republican Study Committee is here tonight. We will hold the Biden administration accountable every step of the way. We will make sure that the past year of crises and catastrophes never repeats itself.

Madam Speaker, tonight, I will yield to a number of my colleagues, like the next speaker. The gentlewoman from the great State of Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) is going to share some thoughts with us.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, the American people have faced 52 weeks of broken promises.

The President who promised to unite the American people instead has pitted citizens against one another.

The President who promised to work with Americans across the political spectrum has prioritized a radical agenda that caters only to the extreme wing of his party.

The President who promised to protect the American people has left us vulnerable at the southern border and across the world.

The President who promised to build back better has only hindered America's economic recovery.

For a year, we have witnessed failure after failure. The American people have paid the price. Day after day, Hoosiers and Americans across the country experience the real ramifications of the Biden administration's policy agenda.

With inflation at a 40-year high, we are paying the price of the President's reckless spending during every trip to the grocery store and the gas station.

Despite spending trillions of dollars on the President's so-called rescue plan, we are facing escalating supply chain bottlenecks and workforce shortages with no end in sight.

Thanks to the Biden administration's open border policy, every town across America is a border town. As illicit drugs pour across the open southern border, including a 1,000 percent increase of fentanyl last year, every neighborhood is at risk.

While Democrats work to defund the police, Americans are facing dangerous crime surges in cities all across the country.

In the end, it all comes down to control. If you don't want to get the vaccine, you are fired. If you dare to ask what your children are learning in school, you are labeled a domestic terrorist.

This is America under 52 weeks of Joe Biden's leadership. The American people deserve better.

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Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from the great State of Indiana for her comments. I know she and I both agree that Hoosiers are sick and tired of this leadership, or lack thereof, that we have seen from President Biden over the last year.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee and a great mentor and colleague.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Indiana for holding this Special Order tonight and calling attention to the problems of the past year.

I could use many words to describe President Biden's first full year in office, but the one that comes to mind immediately is incompetence.

There is a blueprint for the economic and societal ruin that has stabbed America in its back for a year. This administration is the architect of that blueprint.

Inflation has skyrocketed to its highest level in 40 years.

Job creators have faced innumerable setbacks that have threatened their livelihoods.

The ever-growing Federal bureaucracy has metastasized like a cancer.

Parents have been targeted by the FBI and DOJ in what can only be described as a wave of new-age McCarthyism that has been spun by this administration.

The southern border has all but collapsed due to gross mismanagement.

The list goes on and on.

Simply put, the policies and actions of this administration mirror the agenda of political arsonists.

No matter how ambitious or forward-thinking the Biden administration tries to bill itself as, it cannot shake the stench of incompetence that surrounds every initiative it heads up.

Socialism is no longer an ominous shadow on the horizon. This administration has brought it to our doorstep.

This great country must be saved from the ruin that this administration has created.

Republicans will be the ones to save it.

Republicans will be the ones to safeguard the values and freedoms that have always defined America.

Republicans will be the ones to turn this country around and deliver for the American people.

When we retake the House of Representatives and the Senate this year, that is precisely what we will do.

Americans demand it, and we will act.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, from Indiana to North Carolina to Kansas and beyond, the American people are feeling the effects of this disastrous administration.

I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES), my colleague and my friend, a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, and a leader in the Republican Study Committee.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, this week we look back over a year of failures; from the economy and crime to foreign policy and national security. There is not one area where a year of total Democrat control shouldn't receive an F.

It is hard to believe it was only a year ago this Thursday that President Biden swore to uphold the Constitution just outside the building from where we stand today.

Despite assuring the American people that he sought to unify the country, Biden's first hours in office were marked by divisive and controversial executive orders.

Biden's incompetent economic policies destroyed our chance at a strong economic recovery and harmed hard-working families and small businesses.

A year later, Americans are paying about 50 percent more each time they fill up their tank. That is after President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, halted new oil and gas leasing on Federal land, and proposed burdensome taxes and regulations on small energy producers. These policies all matter. They impact real people.

That is why tonight I wanted to share some insight and experiences from folks in Kansas after a year of President Biden holding office.

Nick, a new father in Derby, has certainly noticed the increase in fuel. He just had a baby last year and started a new job. Paying more at the pump means that he has less for his newborn's needs, and as every new parent knows, diapers aren't cheap.

But that is not the only thing Kansans are paying more for.

The Biden administration has directly caused rising prices by flooding the economy with their Big Government spending. The prices of many other everyday goods like beef, bacon, eggs, chicken, and coffee.

That is a lot for any American, but it is especially noticeable for Nancy, a grandmother on a fixed income. She shared that each time she goes to the grocery store she notices her grocery bill keeps going up.

That is not to mention bare shelves and out-of-stock items that many Kansans have experienced when they go shopping.

Beyond the economy, we have witnessed the failure to keep our country safe from illicit drugs flowing into our country at the southern border.

Executive orders have halted the production of a barrier at our southern border, and open border policies have allowed drugs and trafficking to become commonplace. Every State is now a border State, as fentanyl makes its way to communities in Kansas and across the country.

CBP reports that more pounds of fentanyl were seized at the southern border than in the previous 2 years combined.

In a recent survey, a majority of Kansans from my district told me the issues of most importance to them are the economy, rising prices, immigration, and our Federal deficit.

It is time for Congress and the President to start addressing these core concerns. Americans cannot afford another year of radical socialist policies with this administration.

I thank my good friend from Indiana for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ESTES for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE), one of our leaders in Congress on the Republican side fighting for veterans every day on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and my colleague and friend.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 1-year anniversary of the Biden administration. And what a year it has been.

The crisis raging across our Nation because of the incompetency of this administration threaten the lives and livelihoods of countless Americans.

On his first day in office, President Biden gave a taste of what was to come by spitefully eliminating President Trump's border policies and stopping the wall, fueling a border crisis that we have not seen in a generation.

The drug and human trafficking that we have seen at our porous border reaches every community in our Nation. Untold numbers of American families who have lost loved ones to drugs and violence, those families will be broken forever.

But instead of coming after criminals, Biden's Justice Department has focused its crosshairs on engaged parents—moms and dads—and labeling them just because they had concerns about CRT or maybe mask mandates, they are labeled as domestic terrorists and now are charged with hate crimes.

Our economy is in shambles. The Biden jobs deficit, the difference between jobs created and those he promised to create as part of his so-called stimulus from March, has swelled to 1.11 million.

Historic inflation has surged to the highest level in four decades. Gas and energy prices are at the highest they have been since the Obama-Biden administration.

The supply chain crisis has brought any economic recovery to a standstill. Have you been to the grocery store lately? Retailers are facing a 12 percent out-of-stock level on many household

staples. Empty shelves are the new norm.

And let's not forget the pandemic. President Biden centered his campaign on having a solution for the virus. It is clear now that like every other crisis we face, Biden has no plan.

By resorting to harmful and unconstitutional mandates and shutdowns, President Biden is threatening the very liberty that is the foundation of this great American experiment.

And then there is Afghanistan, an issue that is very personal to me. What the Biden administration allowed to happen there, leaving so many Americans and allies behind to the Taliban is a historic tragedy.

But does Joe Biden seek unity? No. He resorts to smearing over half the American people who disagree with his radical agenda.

But that is how this leadership of the Democratic Party in Washington thinks. They believe that the country is theirs to govern as they wish, to force their will on you and me.

Well, we have had 1 year of Democratic Party control; and in only 1 year, the Democratic Party has tried to take our country from us. I say it is time we take it back.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, as President Biden continues to fail the American people in so many ways and his poor leadership has created crisis after crisis after crisis, I can't think of anywhere in the country that shows us just the opposite type of leadership than the free and open State of Florida.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK), one of Florida's great leaders, a freshman leader in the Republican Study Committee, my colleague and friend.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from the great State of Indiana for yielding, and I am still holding out for my honorary Hoosier title.

Madam Speaker, this week we mark 1 year since Joe Biden was sworn in as President and Commander in Chief of the United States. Now, there are 525,600 minutes in a whole year, and somehow Biden has used every single one of those minutes to diminish and destroy the strength of the American economy, its workers, and our national security. During the first year of the Biden Presidency, America has faced more COVID deaths than in the prior year, a disastrous exit from Afghanistan of which we are still getting Americans out, a 40-year high inflation rate, and so much more.

Now, this country has spent the last year staring down a border crisis that has gone unmanaged and a pandemic that has gone unabated. In 2021 alone, there were over 1.7 million border encounters. Keep in mind, the comparison of 500,000 or less the year prior. Now, while our brave border agents were left underresourced and unsupported, this administration first at-

tempted to ignore the crisis then sought to downplay the consequences. The so-called border czar, Vice President HARRIS, refused to visit the border and see this crisis firsthand. This amounted to criminal negligence, and Americans won't soon forget the role that Biden and his administration played in dramatically weakening America's national security.

Now, as millions of illegal immigrants poured over our southwest border, COVID continued to sweep through the United States. The Biden administration was caught flatfooted, once again, on testing capacity nationwide and distribution of critical lifesaving therapeutic treatments. In my home State of Florida, we had a fantastic monoclonal antibody treatment program going, and the Federal Government stepped in and stopped it. Why? Because they are threatened by the freedom. They are threatened by the success. Over 440,000 Americans have lost their lives to COVID-19 under the Biden administration. That is more than when the pandemic began and the entire year of 2020.

Further, images of high gas prices at the pump and empty shelves at the supermarket define the first year of the Biden Presidency. As our Nation has grappled with a global pandemic, this administration has stood on the sidelines while Americans have struggled to get basic necessities. Every sector of the American economy has been hurt by supply chain issues caused in part by abusive Chinese trade practices and, also, weak administrative leadership.

On top of these mounting challenges, the Biden administration has put the entirety of their political capital behind over \$6 trillion worth of so-called social justice spending bills meant to prop up failing government programs and a liberal wish list of items. The economic devastation from so much uncontrolled spending has already been felt in historic levels of inflation and will certainly be burdening generations of Americans to come.

This administration's first year in office has been a disaster from top to bottom. Instead of working to change positively, Biden has worked to change our country into a population of dependents because that is, at the end of the day, what this administration is about: Dependency and control.

We can take our country back, and we will. To Americans hurting in the first 52 weeks of this administration, remember, November is coming.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida for her comments.

I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), one of the greatest voices of common sense in the entire Congress, a senior Republican leader on the House Education and Labor Committee, my colleague, and friend.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, as has just been said, I think the first year of this administration has been

about as disastrous as it could possibly be.

I will focus on the COVID pandemic. Over 300,000 people had died when President Biden took office, nevertheless, things in a way were looking up. Donald Trump had been given a combination of monoclonal antibodies and several other things in a cocktail in which he was cured just a few months before President Biden took office.

One would have thought all one had to do was follow down the path of treatment that Donald Trump received and it would be the end of the pandemic. Instead, we are over a year after him taking office, and at least in Wisconsin we don't have enough monoclonal antibodies to deal with the people who are sick today.

Even though ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine have also shown promise, the CDC and NIH under President Biden have not shown a leadership role and encouraged more doctors to use them. Vitamin D can do a tremendous job in reducing the number of people who succumb to this disease, but again, a complete lack of leadership out of Washington, some people feel a complete lack of leadership because there is not enough money to be made in Vitamin D by the drug companies.

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We recently had calcifediol imported into this country from other countries, and it has not been anywhere near publicized as it should be. It is time for President Biden to step up, to make sure monoclonal antibodies are available to everybody and put an end to the pandemic. I have had my own staffer use monoclonal antibodies, and it turned him around from being quite ill within 24 hours just fine.

Madam Speaker, it is time to look at things other than just making money for the drug companies. It is time to solve this problem.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD), my colleague and a freshman Member of the House.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as we are hearing from many of my colleagues tonight, there is no shortage of policy failures to reflect on as we approach President Biden's 1-year anniversary. But the one that is still beyond belief and a complete disaster is the cancellation of the Keystone pipeline project.

On day one, just hours after being sworn into office, the President halted construction of the pipeline, bringing down thousands of good jobs, many of them in my home State of Wisconsin and many of them in my district. This decision undermined our country's energy independence and destroyed a safe and efficient route to transport oil.

Oh, and now Russia is flush with cash as they market their oil around the entire globe. That is right. Killing the Keystone project didn't just stop the transportation of oil; it completely

reconfigured the way that this works globally.

Listen, while President Biden continues to ignore the negative implications of his agenda, my Republican colleagues and I have been on the forefront proposing solutions—in this case, the Keystone XL Pipeline Construction and Jobs Preservation Act.

Madam Speaker, after seeing the disaster that President Biden left in his wake after only 1 year, I can only fear what will come in the next 3 years.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCÍA), a fellow veteran and friend.

Mr. GARCÍA of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman and shipmate from Indiana for this evening's Special Order.

Madam Speaker, we the people really aren't asking much of our elected officials. Above all things, we just want them to do what is right for our country and be on the side of Americans. This isn't a party thing. This isn't a Republican versus Democrat thing. Regardless of party affiliation, we just want them to do what is right for the country.

The current Presidential administration and its policies have failed us in this regard and in a frighteningly short period of time. In just 1 year, this administration and its policies have eroded America's status as the lone, premier superpower; eroded our energy independence, making us once again beholden to OPEC, literally begging Middle Eastern nations to provide us with more oil; eroded an economy that was thriving before COVID and beginning to recover in the midst of COVID, and now, we are experiencing inflation that we haven't seen in 40 years; eroded our Nation's security, tucking tail against a group of savages and terrorists in Afghanistan after 20 years of fighting for the right reasons.

After almost 2 years of no American deaths in Afghanistan and relative stability in a country that was formerly a breeding ground for terrorists, this administration set an arbitrary exit date and backed that date up with absolutely no plan. This admin stranded hundreds of Americans in Afghanistan and left our allies high and dry. The ad hoc and sloppy withdrawal led to the death of these 13 precious American servicemembers—absolutely avoidable and absolutely the fault of this administration.

We are really not asking for much from our elected officials. We the people just want this administration to stop giving hope to the bad guys and to start taking care of our Nation, our workers, our jobs, the small business owners, our children and their education, and to allow parents the right to understand what our children are being taught in school, the right to make school choices for our children.

We are asking that the administration stop calling parents terrorists and start preventing actual terrorists from infiltrating our country. We are asking

for secure borders, so we don't see 175,000 human beings come across our border and into our Nation each month without any accountability.

If you care about the Dreamers, if you care about the potential DACA recipients, like many of us do, then you must first end this man-made border crisis.

We are really not asking for much. We just want someone to stand up and fight against this ridiculous defund the police movement and make our streets safe again.

We don't want the cost of goods and supply chain issues to overcome our income. We are asking simply that we fairly value the time, the skills, and the experience of our workers so that when they work harder and provide quality service, they make more money and keep more money. We don't want higher taxes only to see the government at all levels squander our hard-earned money.

Madam Speaker, above all things, we just want the President to be on our side and to have the backbone to stand up for the good guys. We are not asking for much. We just want this administration to stop giving hope to the bad guys.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, thanks to our next speaker, I have been to the border in Arizona and Texas, both during President Trump's Presidency and now during President Biden's Presidency. What our next speaker has taught me along the way is the night-and-day difference. The border was under control under President Trump; it is wide open under President Biden.

What I have learned and what I have stressed more than ever before is that what is going on at the border impacts my district in northeast Indiana every single day.

Our next speaker is the co-chair of the Border Security Caucus. No one does more in Congress to highlight these issues and work toward protecting and securing our border than Dr. BRIAN BABIN.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the chairman of the Republican Study Committee. I thank him so much for having this very important Special Order.

Madam Speaker, this week marks 1 year since Joe Biden became President, and what a lawless year this has been. Never in my entire life would I have dreamed that we would have a President who prioritizes criminals and illegal aliens over law-abiding American citizens. But here we are.

The reckless policies coming out of this White House and the Democratic Party as a whole have put you and your families in grave danger.

It is not hard to see where the left's demonization of law enforcement and the decision to gut police department funding has gotten us. Thanks to the Democrats, we are now in the midst of

a crime wave with record-high homicide rates in more than a dozen major cities across this great country of ours. The city of Chicago alone saw at least 800 homicides in 2021, a number that we haven't seen in decades. Bad policies lead to bad consequences. And folks, we are living these in technicolor.

More than 100 of our brave police officers were shot in ambush-style attacks last year. Meanwhile, we have seen violent criminals released into our neighborhoods to commit more violent crimes.

It is happening in my own district in Houston, Texas, in the 36th Congressional District, which had its deadliest year in nearly 40 years. In Harris County, 113 criminals were granted bond after capital murder charges in 2021. Yes, you heard that right: capital murder charges.

Numerous Harris County citizens have been murdered by repeat criminals out on bail, murders which, tragically, could have been avoided. Innocent Americans are being hurt and killed by this foolhardy Democrat policy. But accountability starts at the top. Will this crime wave be just another crisis to go unresolved in 2022, or will this President and his party come back to reality and work with us to stop it?

America is watching.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, when I became the chairman of the Republican Study Committee, which is not just the largest conservative caucus in Congress but the largest caucus overall in the entire United States Capitol, I had to choose someone to lead the Republican Study Committees' Budget and Spending Task Force.

For almost 50 years, this task force and the Republican Study Committee has put forth a fiscally responsible balanced budget in the Congress to lead the way toward fiscal responsibility. And no one has done a better job of that in my time in Congress than KEVIN HERN, a small business owner from the great State of Oklahoma. He has chaired and run this effort well.

Over the last year, we put out a budget that we showed to the Congress. We could balance the budget in 6 years. That is in stark contrast to what the Democrats and President Biden have done to put forth the largest budget that this country has ever seen.

I don't just appreciate the leadership of Representative HERN; I am proud of the effort he put forward.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN).

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for the opportunity to speak to everyone tonight.

Madam Speaker, this week marks a historic milestone, the 1-year anniversary of the Biden Presidency. There is a date in January that 1 year ago has affected all Americans, and that was the election of Joe Biden to the Presidency, his taking office.

Looking back at the previous 12 months, several words come to mind:

failure, confusion, disarray, pain, dishonesty.

I am sure that many of my colleagues will touch on these and many other themes relevant to what has unfolded at the White House since its latest occupant took office some 11 months ago. However, I want to focus on one word that has defined the Biden administration this year, and that is "inflation."

Every single month since Biden took office, inflation has risen higher. In the past 11 months, inflation has reached its highest level in 40 years.

Most of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have never experienced this type of inflation. The last time it was this bad, "E.T." was showing in theaters. Jimmy Carter, the man largely responsible for those hardships, was a one-term President for this very reason.

Thanks to the Biden job-killing policies, taxpayers are paying the price. Our economic recovery is stagnant. Our small businesses are being crushed out of existence. December brought us to a 7 percent increase in inflation over the previous year, a number that American families are feeling every single day in their pocketbooks.

While inflation is up 7 percent, wages have only risen 4.7 percent, meaning that real wages are actually negative, not positive. Americans are paying a whopping \$3,500 more for basic necessities than they were last year. For all the back-patting Biden has done for the dismal number of jobs created under his administration, we are still over 4 million jobs short of prepandemic levels.

This is the Biden economy. Polling proves that inflation is the top-of-mind issue for the vast majority of Americans. So you would think that this administration would be doing everything in their power to alleviate that burden. Instead, they are focused on flushing the markets with even more unchecked spending. When will it end?

The President's dismal approval rating isn't a result of his standing with Republican voters, who haven't liked him from the start. Rather, Democrat and independent voters across the country are voicing their strong displeasure with how poorly our country has been run this past year.

We know what works, and we know what doesn't. What the President is doing is only exacerbating the problem, something just about everyone outside of D.C. knows.

The White House must stop the spending spree, stop imposing unconstitutional mandates, and stop pushing radical legislation. The best thing this President could do right now is just get out of the way.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Oklahoma again for his leadership and the important words that he had to share with us tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL), a new member of the House Committee

on Armed Services who is playing an outsized role on the Committee on Armed Services as we work hard to support our troops who need our support more than ever before.

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), my colleague, for organizing this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, when my father was a child, he sold newspapers on the streets in Oklahoma City. He was 6, 7, and 8 years old. He would tell me stories that they would show up every morning and fight over the best corners because they knew they could sell the most newspapers. That was when we were in the middle of a depression.

We are not in a depression today—yet. But yet, we still have fighting over those same corners.

Today, instead of fighting over the sale of newspapers, they are fighting over the sale of drugs, and these are illegal drugs that are coming across our border.

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Most people don't realize how potent fentanyl is. Let me give you an example. One grain, one single grain of fentanyl can kill a grown man. You can take two packs of sweetener that you sweeten your drink with; that is enough to kill every member of Congress, House and Senate, to give you some idea of how potent these drugs are. Could you imagine a 50-pound backpack of it coming across our open borders?

My personal observation is these intercity killings are primarily against minority communities. Where is the outrage for these children which are our responsibility? They are our responsibility, not another person's responsibility. Our communities are being flooded with illegal drugs being brought in from the left and the right, across our southern borders. My Democrat colleagues remain silent.

Madam Speaker, I truly believe President Biden cares about the lives that are being lost due to illegal drugs and the violence that is being claimed due to these illegal drugs. But where is he? Why is the President not being the leader that he was elected to be? We need a President that is a leader and that will step out there.

We have had a full year to address this simple issue. This simple issue is the illegal drugs. No one seems to be paying attention. I promise you it affects every family. Every family in America that has a family member or friend that has been affected by this fentanyl needs to hear this because we can stop it. We can do it.

This is an American issue that all communities should be in an uproar about. There are simple, commonsense solutions to fix this problem. I am asking, no, I am begging President Biden to sit down at the table and work across the aisle. Let's secure our southern border and stop the flow of these illegal drugs into our community that are killing, killing our kids.

Let's build a wall now instead of stopping the wall. Let's build a wall now and finally put safety and security back into America. First and foremost, our responsibility is the safety of the citizens of this country.

Mr. President, please hear my plea. Now is the time to take action. We need an American leader.

Mr. BANKS. I thank the gentleman from Alabama, Mr. CARL. It is such a powerful statement as we think about the drugs that are flooding over the border, that are impacting communities, destroying families.

The lack of attention by this administration to do anything about it is appalling to the American people. As they see what is going on at the border, they know the border is wide open. They know that this President is responsible for the lack of leadership to secure the border that has allowed drugs to flow into communities and affect and destroy so many families across this country.

Enough is enough. We call on the President. We ask President Biden to step up to the plate and address this issue so that more families aren't ruined, and more communities aren't destroyed because of the amount of drugs and the drug epidemic that is affecting our country.

Again, I said in my opening statement fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45. Why isn't the President paying attention to that statistic and doing anything about it to address it?

Madam Speaker, next, I yield to a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, someone who I know has a heart for our veterans, someone who has served under four Presidents since he has been in Congress. His perspective is powerful.

I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. WILSON), my colleague, mentor, and friend.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. As we reach the one-year anniversary of President Biden in office, I borrow from the great Ronald Reagan and his extraordinary question during the 1980 Presidential debate and ask: Are you better off today than you were a year ago? The obvious and sad answer of thinking Americans is no.

Since President Biden took office January 20, American families have suffered under a one-party Democrat rule, destroying jobs. The continued taxing and spending policies of Biden and Democrats have caused inflation. This situation is getting worse and will challenge our children's future, while threatening the savings of retirees.

Bidenflation has hit the highest rate in 40 years, and the astronomical price increases that come with that affect all of our pocketbooks. A few examples include, gas is up 56 percent higher than over a year ago. Propane, kerosene, and firewood are up 40 percent. Beef and bacon are up 19 percent. Chicken is up 10 percent.

Compounding this damaging effect, most workers have not received wages

that keep up with inflation, according to *The New York Times*. Families have actually lost possibly \$5,000 in just one year. Also, the December Jobs Report came in at less than half where economists projected.

Since President Biden took office, he has failed to protect our southern border. Over 1.7 million illegal aliens have invaded, benefiting the drug cartels and benefiting the horror of promoting human trafficking.

Energy independence has been replaced by energy dependence, resulting in skyrocketing costs. President Biden's policies worldwide have been disastrous. A feeble response to Putin is putting Ukrainian families at risk of mass murder with already 14,000 people killed; bowing to China as it continues the genocide of weaker Muslims; capitulating to Iran as it shouts death to America, death to Israel; appeasement of Afghanistan leading directly to thirteen American heroes murdered; leaving Americans behind and establishing Afghanistan as a safe haven to attack American families with suicide bombers, as we saw claimed this week-end at the Texas synagogue.

American families have never been at greater risk of attack than they are today in American history. The Democrat elite think they are smarter than everyone, and they think Democrat voters and Democrat media are ignorant to believe \$5 trillion in spending costs zero. That is a direct quote from the President.

So I ask the rhetorical and famous question again. Are you better off today than you were a year ago?

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, last but not least, I yield to the gentleman from the great state of Texas, (Mr. ARRINGTON), my friend, someone who fights so hard for freedom, for families.

Mr. ARRINGTON. I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), my friend and colleague from the Hoosier State.

Looking back over the last year under the leadership of this President and single-party rule, for a guy who wants my team to win, my team is not the Republican Party, Madam Speaker. It is the great United States of America. It is my children, quite frankly. Personally, it is my children who I want to inherit the blessings of liberty and opportunity in this great country.

That is our greatest calling, to hand this country back better than we found it, take on the challenges that face our country, work together to solve the problems, and make this a better, stronger, safer, more prosperous, more free Nation for the next generation. That has not happened, not even close, not even close.

I am disappointed to say that this President and his colleagues in the Democratic Party have absolutely failed our country. I didn't say they were bad people. In fact, there are many of them I would call friend and proudly. As a team elected by the American people to do the job I out-

lined, they have failed miserably. As we say in west Texas on Saturday morning after Friday night lights, when we are looking at the film, the eye in the sky doesn't lie. If you look at the footage, you watch the film, you can't help but see one self-inflicted disaster after another.

Madam Speaker, let's start with the tone and the promise to unify this country and its leaders, to usher into this Chamber and to politics and political rhetoric civility and unity. That is a big F.

This President, I would say, took more unilateral actions and, along with his Democrat leaders in Congress, have jammed through more partisan bills than they have worked together to address the issues facing this country. We are more divided today than we were.

If our Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, would actually focus on the things that would be required to prevent another riot on this Capitol, then you would have the Capitol Police and the Inspector General of the Capitol Police saying, we are better prepared than we were a year ago. We are actually less prepared today because there has been so much hyper-partisanship and so much political weaponization and theater than there has actually been real governing of our great country. So there is the tone which is failure.

The most important job of the Federal Government is to provide for a common defense. It is the safety and security of the American people. I know you have heard Chairman BANKS. I am sure the remarks today have been replete with the debacle in Afghanistan and the sadness with which all Americans watched that. At the same time that they watched this needless, senseless incompetence, they saw America's credibility slip quickly, not only with our enemies but with our allies. I don't know if there was ever a time that the American troops packed up and left with Americans, our fellow citizens, crying out because we left them behind.

There is a litany of problems with what happened in Afghanistan. This President is ultimately responsible. He didn't listen to his advisors. People died. Our troops, we spent 20 years and trillions of dollars, we lost the lives of our sons and daughters in uniform to the tune of roughly 2,400. What do we have to show for it besides that embarrassment of a withdrawal?

I live in Texas. We are at ground zero with respect to the chaos at the border and the record number of people and crime activity and drugs that are powering into our country. This President has been derelict in fulfilling his sacred duty to uphold the law, plain and simple.

Worse, working with his Democrat colleagues in this Chamber, they have poured fuel on the fire that is burning out of control at the border by saying we will give you more carrots. We will create more incentives. We will turn

the volume up so that people will come in by the millions with the offer of repatriation, with the offer of citizenship, mass amnesty, the ability to vote in our elections.

You can't make this up, but this border crisis is real. The American people who live along the border feel like this President and their government has given up on them and has failed them. I would agree.

With respect to the economy, I know we had a tough job for all Americans and all leaders for both parties to get us up and out of the recession related to the pandemic. For this President and my Democrat colleagues, to put policies in place that incentivize people to stay at home rather than to go back to work, I am talking about enhanced unemployment policies. I am talking about welfare expansion without work requirements, actually a repeal of work requirements. To put massive amounts of government spending into the marketplace, it is no wonder that we are seeing runaway inflation in every corner of our marketplace and in every good and every service that our working Americans depend on.

□ 2015

The majority of Americans who live paycheck to paycheck have lost almost \$400 a month on account of the real wage decrease because of inflation, self-inflicted, one after another, and the state of the Union is more fragile now than ever. It is less hopeful than it was 1 year ago.

I don't see any posture of change or relenting on the horizon from this President, even with these startling statistics and facts that are laid out plainly for everybody to see. I am not bashful to give blame or credit to either side when it is due, but this is a one-party rule. We haven't even talked about the crime spree, we haven't talked about the promises made and broken with respect to COVID, the authoritarian mandates in one breath and action and in another breath saying that we are going to work together and defer to States, this isn't a Federal solution. I am confused. I am concerned.

I have got to say 1 year in review is bleak and dismal. I don't say that with partisan glee, I say it with tremendous sadness and with profound grief over the opportunities lost in a backslidden country where we can do so much better. We have done better together. Republicans don't have all the answers. I don't have all the answers. But this has not been the great, strong, and constructive leadership that our Nation has seen in the past from, quite frankly, from both parties.

So I hope and pray, Madam Speaker, that this President will hear not my voice but the voices of the American people, the voices who cried out from the will of the people in Virginia where the We the People wave has begun, and that we will make changes, and that he will focus on the real needs; he will stop placating the left, which seems to

be the MO and has been for the last year, and start focusing on the priorities that are important to the American people and to working families: safer neighborhoods; a secure border; strong, effective, and respected military and law enforcement; real growth; real opportunities; real wage increases like we saw when we cut taxes; and just a better quality of life and better hope over the horizon for our children.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BANKS for allowing me to be a part of today's Special Order.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for so many important comments that he and the others have shared with us today as we mark the 1-year anniversary mark of President Biden taking office as the current President of the United States.

Once again, this President ends his first year in office with the lowest approval rating of any President in American history. The American people are feeling the decline of America. They see it, and they hate it because they know it doesn't have to be this way. They are crying out for leadership. They are begging the party in power—the Democratic Party that controls the Congress and owns the White House under President Joe Biden—to do something about inflation, because they feel it and see it every day when they go to the grocery store. And they beg the Democratic Party to do so something about it. They are begging President Biden to address inflation, the worst inflation of my lifetime.

They are baffled why the party in power and this President are completely tone-deaf to the needs of the American people as they suffer through this disastrous set of consequences of the policies of this President.

Madam Speaker, you heard a lot tonight about the effects of the COVID lockdowns and policies that have hurt our kids in schools and have hurt so many working Americans as they feel the pressures of these lockdowns and the failed policies of this administration. You have heard a lot tonight about the effects of fentanyl and the drugs that are coming over the wide-open border because of the failed border policies of this President.

You have heard a lot tonight about the embarrassment that Afghanistan has caused the American people on the world stage. The American people know that when we put America's interests first in our foreign policy, the world is safer and better off. But under this President, America is less safe from North Korea to the Middle East, China and Russia, all of these countries are seizing on America's weakness under President Biden's leadership, and the world is less safe because of it.

Madam Speaker, I call on the Democratic Party and President Biden to step up to the plate. America can't afford to suffer another 3 years of what they have suffered through over the last year.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and the Vice President.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2520. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 117th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Twentieth District of Florida.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3169. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — 2022-2024 Single-Family and 2022 Multifamily Enterprise Housing Goals (RIN: 2590-AB12) received January 11, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3170. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3171. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notice of a drawdown authority; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3172. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification regarding Australia Group effectiveness; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3173. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3174. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 21-076, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3175. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 20-066, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3176. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-216, "Flexible Rent Subsidy Pilot Program Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3177. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-217, "Post-Public Health Emergency Protections Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3178. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-218, "Medical Marijuana Plant Count Elimination Temporary Amendment Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3179. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-219, "Metropolitan Police Department Overtime Spending Accountability Temporary Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3180. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-281, "Capital Gains Deduction Clarification Temporary Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3181. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-282, "Steatery Program Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3182. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-283, "Fair Meals Delivery Second Temporary Act of 2021", pursuant to